scrutiny. It is expected that the Act and the rules thereunder will be notified shortly.

Firing on Fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy

260. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the frequent firing on fishermen from Wagapattinam and Thiruvarur districts of Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy; and

(b) the details of the action taken by Government to save the poor fishermen from the clutches of Sri Lankan Navy?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The Government of India is aware of incidents of alleged firing involving Sri Lankan Navy on Indian Fishermen from the State of Tamil Nadu.

(b) During 2002, two incidents of alleged firing have been reported by the Office of Commissioner and Director of Fisheries, Chennai namely fishermen from Chidambaram District, fishing off Kodiakarai on 22.01.2002 and fishermen of Nagapattinam District again fishing off Kodiakarai on 23.04.2002. Every reported incident with specific details is taken up by the High Commission of India, Colombo with Sri Lankan authorities. Sri Lankan Navy has assured that their forces are under maximum restraint in dealing with Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan waters.

Government have suggested to the Sri Lankan Government that licensed fishing in their north-eastern waters be permitted for Indian fishermen.

Both sides agree that these cases should be dealt with in a spirit of compassion and understanding, in accordance with established legal procedures and in a humane manner.

Extradition of suspected accused of Purulia Case

261. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during his visit to Denmark in October last, the Prime Minister was told by his Danish counterpart that